**BURT TOWNSHIP**
**BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 26, 2026**

The monthly meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Gene Hodulik on October 26, 2026, at the Burt Township Hall at 7:05 PM.

**ATTENDANCE:** Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Paul Janness, Dennis Dombroski , Brett Lindgren, Jerry Trudell, and Margie Reh. Public attending: Becca Nelson, Top of Michigan Trails Council acting Executive Director, and Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Hodulik

GUEST INTRODUCTION: Hodulik introduced Becca Nelson, acting Executive Director of TOMTC in Petoskey to everyone in attendance. TOMTC has managed our donations as a 503C for over 15 years. She is here to get an update of our progress connecting to the North Central State Trail in Topinabee and the Northwestern State Trail in Brutus, and our new east side trailhead. These topics were discussed explaining the signage being used for bikers as it will be a few years before repaving the connector roads with possible wider paved shoulders will happen.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS:** Motion by Brett Lindgren, seconded by Paul Janness to approve the October 26 agenda as stated. Motion Approved.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 MINUTES::** Motion by Jerry Trudell, seconded by Dennis Dombroski to approve as written. Motion approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**EASTSIDE TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENT:** Based on the latest communication with Meg Sheehan of EGLE Gaylord , EGLE will be drilling 3-4 new wells this next spring on the property. Therefore the project to have Afton Stone spread and rolled followed by installing the split rail fence will not happen until May-June timeframe next year. Hodulik received a quote from **Jamie Zinke (231- 420-1256) for $3,676** to purchase the fence and install it.

**Motion:** Dennis Dombroski made a motion to accept the quote and inform Jamie Zinke to buy/install the fence in the spring, seconded by Margie Reh. Motion approved.

**PAVE THE LAST 1.5 MILES OF STONE TRAIL ON THE WEST SIDE**: After Hodulik had discussions with Mike Spierling it was decided to pave about **.8 mile from Hogsback Road south to stop at the .1 of a mile already paved**. This portion has a very solid base. This paving **was completed four days ago**. The remaining .7 mile base, from Harwood Rd north past Indian Road, has been damaged and there is not enough time this fall to repair it due to Spierling's backlog of work remaining yet this fall**.** The agreed to plan is repair the base next spring and then pave the remaining portion of trail. This is a change to what was agreed to a month ago.

An understanding is also required, working with the county road commission manager, is how close the trail should be to the old West Burt Lake Road which is 2 feet or more narrower than the new portion of West Burt Lake Road. If butted to the old road it will need to be 11-12 feet wide and the question is will the road commission pay for the extra 2 to 3 feet width. Everyone agreed it should be paid by the county, not our township.

A separated trail is best as it was designed that way, but if adjacent to the road shoulder, "fog" lines must be painted on the shooulders to separate the trail from the road. Also suggested were the use of rumble strips or reflective stakes as used on road curves.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MORE BENCHES ON THE TRAIL**: Locating benches every half mile or cleared areas near there is a project that should be done next year. These would be very convenient for walkers. These could be like the one at the Gorge or look at those made by Cheboygan Cement. Prices will be researched. Installation of at least 2 benches on each side of the trail would be a good start. Becca Nelson said that benches on most trails are paid for through donations with engraved names on the backs. Hodulik suggested that Renee Kinney's name be somewhere on the trailhead as she "sold" the property to the township for one dollar. Also suggested is to talk with the Amish as they would probably make a sign holder and also a "run in" shelter for the trailhead.

**2026 MEETING DATES:** All meetings will be at 7 PM on the 4th Monday of the month. No meeting in December unless necessary. Meetings are Jan 26, Feb 23, March 23, April 27, May 18 3rd Monday), June 22, July 27, August 24,Sept 28,Oct 26, Nov 23

**FINANCES:** The **Trail Maintenance Fund** has a balance of **$ 50,618.14 as of September 30, 2026**. A total of $4,170 has been spent this year for maintenance of the trail. The Burt Lake Trail donation account at TOMTC has a balance of **$20,887.80** as of **June 4, 2026. The trail donation account at CNB has $432.91 as of September 30, 2026.**

**NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 23, 2026, at 7 PM at the Burt Township Hall**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**COMMITTEE COMMENT: T**here is an account at TOMTC to honor Harold Koviak with contributions to the Burt Lake Trail. People should mail a contribution to TOMTC, 1687 M-119, Petoskey, Mi 49770. Write the check to: TOMTC and in the check memo write : in Memory of Harold Koviak/ Burt Lake Trail.

Dennis Dombroski recommended to be sure to stencil in more Bike signs and have the county road commission paint new "fog lines" for Mullett-Burt, East Burt and West Burt Lake Roads next spring to separate the paved shoulder/trail area. .

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Motion by Brett Lindgren, seconded by Margie Reh to adjourn. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNED: 8:07 PM Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary**